Presentation of the budget for 1106 M. E.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, it has been my privilege ever since the inauguration of our Legislative Council by His Highness our benign Maharaja—about whose earnest solicitude for the progressive well-being of His Highness' subjects it will be highly presumptuous on my part to speak—to introduce the budget estimates in the legislature for their approval. For five successive years it has thus fallen to my lot to present the estimates, and I have always endeavoured to place them in as lucid a manner as possible. Criticisms there have been and in the very nature of things will continue—no human institutions can claim perfection—and Government have taken them in the true spirit in which they were offered by the representatives of the people. They have done their best during these strenuous years to remove the defects pointed out as far as it was possible for them to do and make improvements wherever necessary. Since this is the last Budget Session of the Second Legislative Council, I shall, as falls within the province of a Finance Member, attempt to give a financial resume of the measures undertaken and to be undertaken in accordance with the representations made and consonant with the Government policy. I am emboldened in my task by the firm belief that, in spite of the all-round progress which we have made and in spite of the steady growth of expenditure during the period, we have been enabled to maintain a satisfactory state of affairs indicative of a sound financial position—a position which can give no room for anxiety for some years to come.

A retrospect.—The five years that have thus passed since the opening of the Council are years, which, I venture to hope, we shall be justified in looking back upon as a period of steady progress to a condition of financial ease, administrative improvement and material advance. The net surplus to the credit of the State which stood at Rs. 41·56 lakhs at the end of 1100 rose to Rs. 93·49 lakhs at the end of 1104, not by stinting expenditure on Departments catering to the welfare of the people, not by tapping new sources of revenue by the imposition of fresh taxation, but by a judicious and discriminate handling of the State Finance and by a scrupulous care to see that the money was spent properly in the true interests of the State. There has been no rush after big schemes in youthful impetuousity, but, on the other hand, schemes for material progress have been conceived and are being developed with the calm considerateness of a mature age following the motto 'Hasten slowly'—having in mind the sad experience of the results of the Potteries, the Tanneries, etc., in recent years.

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During the period under review the revenue rose from Rs. 76,58,790 in 1100 or Rs. 71,68,230 in 1101 to Rs. 91,11,859 at the beginning of 1105 while the expenditure also kept equal pace by rising from Rs. 65,02,689 in 1100 to Rs. 73,43,722 in 1104. The main heads responsible for this growth of revenue are 'Customs', Railway', 'Forests', etc., while the increase in expenditure is the direct consequence of expanding the activities of all the Departments of public utility like 'Education', Medical and Sanitation', 'Public Works', Agriculture and 'Panchayats', etc., as may be seen from the following statement:—

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Serial No.	Heads of expenditure	Actuals of 1101	Actuals of 1102	Actuals of 1103	Actuals of 1104	Revised est 1105	Budget estimate 1106
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Agriculture and Panchayats ...	2,00,026	2,27,137	2,73,985	2,78,181	3,54,000	4,30,900
2	Co-operative ...	11,850	11,199	13.770	15,658	19,000	21,900
3	Medical and Sanitation..	3,42,148	3,35,652	3 ,61,693	3,71,275	4,01,000	4,75,600
4	Education ..	11,61,116	12,17,182	.12,79,256	12,67,885	13,66,800	14,82,200
5	Scientific etc., Departments ..	90,634	91,314	91,715	1,21,291	1,61,100	1,62,500
6	Public Works ...	10,67,683	12,25,424	10,50,117	12,30,561	20,32,000	18,17,400
7	Up-lift of the Depressed Classes ..	...	..	..	70,001	96,600	1,09,500

The expansion of the activities of the **Panchayat Department** for the benefit of the rural population such as opening of new roads and canals, wells and tanks, not to speak of the impetus given to the spread of Ayurveda by grants to the institutions and by the opening of Vaidyasalas in numerous Panchayats with free supply of medicines has mainly contributed to the increase under the head. To the manifold activities of the Department have lately been added the measures taken for the treatment of snake poison. Centres for treatment have been opened in each Taluk besides a Central Institute as the 70th Birthday Boon of His Highness. For the spread of agriculture on improved methods no expenditure has been spared, and a forward policy has been followed by liberal grants to the Central Farm, by annual exhibitions in each Taluk and by the entertainment of highly qualified experts got trained by grant of scholarships to carry to the ryots' door the knowledge of scientific methods of agriculture. To carry on investigations and researches in connection with the agricultural development a laboratory has just been opened in the Central Farm, and it is being fully equipped. The opening of model farms in each Taluk is also engaging the attention of the Government. Opening of Parks for the public as at Ernakulam and Trichur has been another fresh branch of activity of the Department. Liberal grants have been made besides for agricultural loans, and the people would surely be benefited very much. The vigorous scheme of the disafforestation of lands for which a special officer was appointed and assignment of such lands with a view to throw open more area for agriculture is nearing completion.

Co operative Department is another agency closely allied to Agriculture in the task of improving the condition of the poor ryots by saving them from the clutches of money-lenders and by instilling in their minds the habits of thrift and economy, and its activities were considerably extended. With the increase in the number of societies, of members and of the working capital it has been found necessary to increase the staff of the Department. Supervising Unions have lately been formed and grants are made therefor.

Medical and Sanitation.—The growth of the expenditure under the head is the direct result of the purchase of a larger quantity of medicines, larger provisions made for dietary charges, entertainment of larger staff of doctors, nurses, etc., to cope with the growing needs, the opening of rural dispensaries, etc. The X-Ray Department introduced during the period is growing in popularity, and the construction of the Pay Ward is meeting a long-felt want.

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